

## Resolution Encourages Preventative Screenings & Healthy Lifestyle For Women

*Washington, DC* - Just three days after Mother's Day, the House last night approved a bipartisan resolution sponsored by Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA), and Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack (R-CA) that expresses Congress' recognition of May 11-17, 2008 as National Women's Health Week. U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) and U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) helped the Senate pass an identical measure last week.

"Congress made a powerful statement on behalf of women across the country by passing this resolution that urges women to get preventative health screenings and to take the important steps needed to live healthier lives," Hinchey said. "I am pleased to have worked in a bipartisan fashion with my colleagues to get this measure recognizing the importance of National Women's Health Week passed in the House and the Senate. Whether it be in their role as mother, sister, aunt, or friend, women are looked to and admired as leaders of families and we should help ensure that they live long and healthy lives."

"I am pleased to join my colleagues Maurice Hinchey and Mary Bono Mack in supporting National Women's Health Week," said Capps, a nurse and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. "This is an important opportunity to raise awareness about the health risks women face, especially those that are unique to women. We should also use this opportunity to encourage the women in our lives to practice preventive health care and adopt healthier lifestyle habits."

Bono Mack added, "Women's Health Week is a time to focus national attention on health concerns that affect women and also remind women about practical steps they can take to live healthier lives. I am pleased that Congress has taken this action to generate greater awareness and promote choices that will help women of all ages throughout our country."

"I am pleased that Congress has recognized how important it is to raise awareness about the manageable steps women can take to improve their health," Feingold said. "National Women's Health Week plays an important role in promoting positive changes women can make to live longer, healthier lives."

National Women's Health Week begins on Mother's Day annually and celebrates the efforts of national and community organizations as well as individuals who work to improve awareness of key women's health issues. The resolution recognizes the importance of preventing diseases that commonly affect women; calls on Americans to use Women's Health Week as an opportunity to learn about health issues that face women; calls on American women to receive preventative screenings from their health care providers; and recognizes the importance of federally-funded programs that provide research and collect data on common diseases in women.

This is the third time that Hinchey, Capps, Bono Mack, Feingold, and Snowe introduced a similar measure. The National Council of Women's Organizations fully endorses the resolution on behalf of its 230 member organizations representing 11 million women nationwide.